NREGS in tribal districts of Orissa

246. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided not to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to other districts in the country;

(b) whether scheme has been afflicted with certain maladies;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the total number of districts in Orissa where this scheme has since been launched; and

(e) what is the action plan of Government to extend the scheme to other backward tribal dominated districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) In the first phase of implementation of NREG Act, 200 districts have been identified. Section 1(3) of the NREG Act provides that the Act has to be extended to the entire country within a period of five years from the date of enactment of the Act.

(b) and (c) No Sir. However, individual complaints and difficulties wherever noticed, are brought into the notice of the concerned State for immediate action.

(d) 19 districts of Orissa have been covered in the first phase of NREG Act.

(e) The Ministry is monitoring the implementation of NREG Act in the 200 districts and there is a need to continue with this process of interaction and feedback from them so that an action plan for extending the Act to more districts can be formulated.

Expansion of Rajasthan desert towards Delhi

247. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Rajasthan Desert is rapidly moving towards Delhi;

(b) if so, the area covered by the Desert in Haryana during the last ten years;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to decrease the desert area in Haryana and Rajasthan, particularly by tree plantation; and

(d) whether diverting the drainage water to the Desert areas will be helpful for cultivation and would stop the expansion of the Desert?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Department of Space had mapped wastelands in the country using satellite data of different periods (1986-2000) at village/ watershed level. The status of wastelands in the country was again mapped using one period IRS LISS-III satellite data (Rabi 2003). The extent of wastelands in Rajasthan has registered a decrease by about 4.17 lakh hectares during this period.

(b) In 1994-95, a High Level Technical Committee set up by Ministry of Rural Development, adopting scientific criteria of moisture index, rainfall, irrigation resources etc. identified an arid (desert) aera of about 20.54 lakh hectares in Haryana spread across seven districts of the State.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing the Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed approach since 1995-96 to combat decertification in seven States, including Haryana and Rajasthan, through activities like soil-moisture conservation, water resources development, crop protection, afforestation, pasture development etc. Till 2005-06, an identified area of 5.15 lakh hectares in Haryana and 31.82 lakh hectares in Rajasthan has been sanctioned for development under DDP.

Setting up of yarn depots

†248. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to boost handloom industry, the Prime Minister has called upon to provide soft loan to the weavers;

(b) whether Government have also decided to set up 230 yarn depots for providing easy access of goods to handloom clusters;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.